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Message Text

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20
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 DODE-00 MC-02 ACDA-05 OES-03 /053 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARP:FMDICKMAN:CEJ
APPROVED BY NEA:SSOBER
PM - MR. STERN
DOD/ISA - CDR. SICK
NEA/RA - COL. HOBBS
---------- 031696
P 112348Z JUL 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY DOHA PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 164134

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, MARR, QA, US

SUBJECT: F-5S AND US ARMS POLICY IN GULF

REF: DOHA 698

1. WE REGRET DELAY IN RESPONDING TO DOHA'S 536 BUT WE BELIEVED THAT REITERATION OF OUR LOWER GULF ARMS POLICY CONTAINED IN STATE 126783 IN CONNECTION WITH GOQ REQUESTS ON OTHER ARMS WOULD ANSWER QUESTION RAISED REFTEL.

2. WE DO NOT RECALL ANY SPECIFIC APPROACH BY NORTHROP TO SELL F-5 AIRCRAFT TO QATAR BUT WE HAVE IN PAST REVIEWED FOR NORTHROP OUR LOWER GULF ARMS POLICY IN GENERAL TERMS. SPECIFICALLY IN ANSWER TO YOUR QUESTION, WE WOULD WANT TO MAKE A DETERMINATION ON THE FOLLOWING IF SUBJECT IS RAISED: (A) WHAT ARE QATAR'S SECURITY CONCERNS THAT WOULD JUSTIFY ACQUIRING FIGHTER AIRCRAFT LIKE THE F-5; (B) ARE QATAR'S SECURITY CONCERNS WELL FOUNDED AND DOES US HAVE ANY RELAT-IONSHIP TO THESE CONCERNS; (C) WHAT WOULD BE THE IMPACT
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ON QATAR'S NEIGHBORS IF SUCH AIRCRAFT WERE SOLD; (D) CAN

QATAR REALISTICALLY HOPE TO FLY AND MAINTAIN THESE AIR-CRAFT WITH ITS OWN MANPOWER RESOURCES; AND (E) WHAT ARE

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THE IMPLICATIONS FOR THE UNITED STATES IF IT DID NOT
SUPPLY THESE AIRCRAFT?

3. AT THIS TIME, WE DO NOT SEE THAT QATAR IS SUBJECT TO
ANY THREAT FROM ANY OF ITS NEIGHBORS NOR DOES IT HAVE ANY
SPECIAL SECURITY RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE GULF REGION.
NEITHER DOES QATAR HAVE THE INFRASTRUCTURE OR BEGINNINGS
OF NUMBERS OF TRAINED PERSONNEL THAT WOULD BE NEEDED TO
HANDLE THIS TYPE OF FIGHTER AIRCRAFT. BECAUSE OF ITS
SMALL POPULATION AND VULNERABILITY, QATAR MUST DEPEND
FOR ITS SECURITY ON CLOSE COOPERATION WITH OTHER SMALL
GULF STATES AS WELL AS WITH ITS LARGER NEIGHBORS, SAUDI
ARABIA AND IRAN, REGARDLESS OF ANY MILITARY EQUIPMENT IT
MIGHT ACQUIRE. WHILE QATAR MAY WANT TO ACQUIRE
THESE AIRCRAFT FOR PRESTIGE PURPOSES, WE DO NOT BELIEVE
USG CAN JUSTIFY SALE OF AIRCRAFT ON THAT BASIS. IT
WOULD ONLY HAVE A DESTABILIZING EFFECT AND WE HAVE ALREADY
RECEIVED INDICATIONS FROM BAHRAIN THAT IT WOULD EXPECT TO
INITIATE A PROGRAM SIMILAR TO ANY WHICH WE MIGHT HAVE WITH
QATAR.

4. IF PURCHASE OF F-5 AIRCRAFT IS RAISED BY GOQ, YOU
SHOULD REPORT REQUEST AND INDICATE THAT UNITED STATES
WILL GIVE IT CAREFUL STUDY ON BASIS OF CRITERIA SET FORTH
IN PARA 2. INGERSOLL

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